REMARKS

Restriction Requirements

The Office Action indicated that claims 1-19 are subject to a restriction and/or election requirement. Applicant respectfully assumes that since claim 20 is dependent upon claim 16, that claim 20 is also subject to the restriction and/or election requirement. More specifically, the Office Action indicated that Applicant must elect one of the following groups of claims for examination on the merits:

I.   Claims 1-7 and 16-19;

II.   Claims 8-15.

Applicant has reviewed the claims and provisionally elects Group I for examination on the merits with traverse. Claim 8 provides a gear box assembly with a gear box input shaft and a gear box output shaft, and a gear assembly which provides an underdrive gear ratio and a direct drive gear ratio or an overdrive gear ratio and a direct drive gear ratio. Similarly, claims 1-7 and 16-20 also include an input shaft, an output shaft and a gear assembly that provides an underdrive gear ratio and a direct drive gear ratio or an overdrive gear ratio and a direct drive gear ratio. Therefore, the restriction requirement should be removed and all of claims 1-20 should be examined since claims 9-15 are dependent upon claim 8 and will require a search for a gear box that contains the aforementioned components. The Patent Office would not be unduly burdened by prosecuting claims 8-15 in the same application. For this reason Applicant respectfully requests removal of the restriction requirement and examination of all existing claims on the merits.
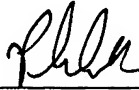
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are properly allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 364-4300 if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: Oct 28, 2005

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